

2023 SAMHSA SOAR FEBRUARY E-NEWS

Share the Love With SOAR for Children

Access to the income and health insurance that comes with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can be life-changing for children with disabilities and their families. This February, spread the love with the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum. Find a provider in your community that serves children and youth and share with them the benefits that SOAR for Children could provide for the individuals they serve. Our [SSI for Children Information Sheets](#) are a great way to start.

Read more about how using the SOAR model for completing child SSI applications made an incredible impact for one family that Kim Wirtanen assisted in Minnesota.

[Keep Reading](#)

February Spotlights

Appeals Spotlight: Q&A With Candice Masesie, SOAR Benefits Specialist, Fulton Friendship House, Gloversville, New York

When Candice Masesie submitted a SOAR success story, recounting her experience representing an SSI/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) applicant at an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) appeal hearing after the initial application and reconsideration requests were both denied, we knew we wanted to hear more! Continue reading below for our conversation with Candice, and continue to the next newsletter story to read more about her SOAR success.

[Read More](#)


Sharing Our Successes: Perseverance and Preparation Make Third Time the Charm



This story of SOAR success comes from SOAR Local/State Lead and SOAR Benefits Specialist Candice Masesie at Fulton Friendship House in Gloversville, New York.

The county department of social services referred Amanda to me. She was experiencing homelessness and had been diagnosed with several serious mental illnesses in addition to having intellectual and learning disabilities. Amanda's SSI/SSDI application was denied at the initial and reconsideration levels, so in November of 2022, I served as her representative at her ALJ appeal hearing. The following month, the SSA supervisor called to congratulate me on Amanda's approval. She was awarded over \$16,000 in back pay and can now afford and maintain housing after experiencing homelessness since 2018.

[More Info](#)

2022 White House Tribal Nations Summit Recap

On November 30 and December 1, 2022, President Joe Biden and Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland held the Administration's second White House Tribal Nations Summit at the Department of the Interior.

[Access the Full Story](#)


See How SOAR Works

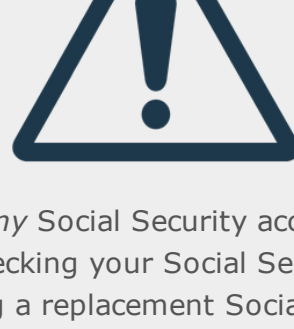
SOAR Webinar: Building and Sustaining SOAR Collaborations With Medical Providers



March 8, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET

This webinar will spotlight successful collaborations between SOAR practitioners and medical providers. SOAR caseworkers will share how they have formed strong relationships with clinicians in their agencies. A medical provider will discuss how supporting SSI/SSDI applications often leads to better continuity of care for patients. We will also include the voices of SOAR beneficiaries who will share their experiences working alongside their SOAR caseworker and their clinician to submit a quality SSI/SSDI application and develop a medical and mental health treatment plan. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

SOAR Tip: Creating and Using a *my* Social Security Account



The Social Security Administration's (SSA) *my* Social Security account is an online account created by a user to access SSA's online services, including checking your Social Security statement, verifying and reporting earnings, changing an address, or requesting a replacement Social Security card. SSA encourages everyone to create an account! For SOAR applicants, a *my* Social Security account can be used to set the individual's protective filing date by beginning the online disability application. However, it is common that some people have trouble filing date by account. When this occurs, we recommend referencing the [Creating a *my* Social Security Account Flowchart](#) that the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center created to assist with setting an applicant's protective filing date with or without creating a *my* Social Security Account.



SOARing Over Lunch Conference Call

February 14, 2023, 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET

[Add February SOARing Over Lunch to Your Calendar](#)

Federal Updates

SAMHSA Announces Funding Opportunity: Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals

The purpose of this program is to provide comprehensive, coordinated, and evidence-based treatment and services for individuals (including youth) and families with substance use disorders (SUDs) or co-occurring mental health conditions and SUDs (CODs) who are experiencing homelessness.

SAMHSA Releases *Expanding Access to and Use of Behavioral Health Services for People At Risk for or Experiencing Homelessness*

This guide highlights strategies for behavioral health and housing providers to conduct outreach and engage with individuals experiencing homelessness, initiate use of behavioral health treatment as they wait to receive stable housing, and retain them in their recovery efforts once housed.

Partner Updates

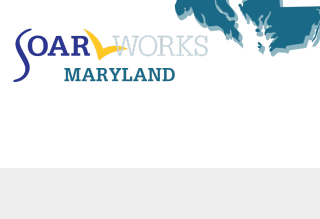
HHRC Webinar: Effective Behavioral Health Crisis Response

This webinar, to be held on February 23 from 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET, will explore strategies for reducing, mitigating, and responding to behavioral health emergencies involving individuals experiencing homelessness. The featured panelists will discuss cross-sector provider coordination and integration and best practices for effectively responding to crisis situations. They will also provide community examples of cross-sector coordination to improve health outcomes, and offer tangible approaches to ensuring comprehensive, culturally responsive services.

SOAR Jobs

- **Maryland:** Health Care for the Homeless is seeking a Disability Assistance Outreach Specialist who will submit SSI/SSDI applications using the SOAR model for individuals with severe and chronic mental illness who are experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City.

Learn more about this position on the [SOARWorks website](#). Do you have a job posting you would like to share with the SOAR community? Please submit it to the [SAMHSA SOAR TA Center!](#)



More From SOAR



State Directory

Library & Tools

Contact Us



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is sponsored by SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Disclaimer: The SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance Center is sending this eNews with support from SAMHSA, HHS. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of HHS or SAMHSA.

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

SAMHSA 5600 Fishers Ln | Rockville, MD 20857 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.